



**FAC Spotlight:**  
**COT's Mary Jacobs Takes**  
**Volunteering to a New Level**

About a year ago Mary Jacobs, a systems consultant IT with COT, said she read newspaper articles about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and how they help abused and neglected children navigate through the court system.

Her interest piqued, she then attended a fund raising dinner with a co-worker. After that, she took classes to become a CASA volunteer and recently was sworn in as an advocate for children in the legal system in Anderson and Franklin counties.

She already has been assigned her first case.

"I got involved with CASA because I hope to make a difference in the lives of kids who find themselves in circumstances that they have no control over," said Jacobs.

When children are involved in cases of abuse, neglect or dependency, a judge may appoint a CASA. Volunteers meet with and get to know the child.

They gather information from the child's family, teachers, doctors and any other party that may be involved in the child's life. Then, they make recommendations to the court based on their investigation and the best interest of the child.

According to CASA for Children, every day in this country, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die. CASA for Children is a network of 951 community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.



**Kentucky Gets First Place, Top 5 Designations from Center for Digital Government**

Kentucky received several accolades in the Center for Digital Government's 2014 Digital States Survey, which reflects the state's use of technology and efforts to change entrenched practices.



"Having Kentucky recognized for best practices in using technology is a powerful testament to the emphasis we place on improving and delivering services to our citizens and businesses," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "I'm proud to be honored by professional and peer organizations for our diligence in employing strategies that move Kentucky forward."

Kentucky received first place recognition in the health and human services category for its smooth rollout of kynect, its health benefit exchange. The state will be honored at the upcoming Digital States Performance Institute survey awards celebration on Sept. 28 in Nashville as part of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) annual meeting.

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When asked what she thought the biggest challenge would be, Jacobs said, "I will experience situations that will not be very pleasant. Some of these kids live in extreme poverty, have been abused or neglected, and may be in need of specialized services to take care of physical or emotional needs."

While the work will be challenging, it will also be rewarding.

"My hope is that families will heal and become a positive family unit. If the court finds that the best interest of the child is to be removed from the family, then I am there to see the child through the transition. I have read stories of CASA volunteers that remain in the child's life long term."

Jacobs has one son who's out on his own now. Her relationship with him is special and she hopes to help bring love, attention and support to children in need.

Jacobs has been with COT for nearly nine years. Prior to COT she was a systems consultant contractor for the Dept. of Education. Five other CASA volunteers were sworn in with Jacobs.

CASA volunteers are everyday people making a difference in the lives of children. Because the need for CASA volunteers is so great, CASA of the Bluegrass will initiate new volunteer training again in the spring.

For information about becoming a CASA volunteer call 502-875-0702 or send your inquiry to [shirley@casaoftthebluegrass.org](mailto:shirley@casaoftthebluegrass.org). Go to [casaoftthebluegrass.org](http://casaoftthebluegrass.org) for additional information.

## PERSONNEL MOVES

### Budget Staff & Procard Administrator Changes

**Larry Hacker** and **Sharon Sutherland** recently retired from the Division of Budget and Planning, Office of Administrative Services. **Jack Goins**, formerly with COT, is a new budget analyst in the division.

The first contact for budget issues should be the person who is assigned to the agency. Assignments are:

COT	Jack Goins
Revenue	Nancy Haggarty
Secretary's Office	Nancy Haggarty
Controller's Office	Tina Howard
Facilities	Tina Howard

**Andrianne Lowe**, in the Division of Administrative Support Services, is now the procard site administrator for the Finance Cabinet. If you have questions or issues with a procard, contact Andrianne at [Andrianne.lowe@ky.gov](mailto:Andrianne.lowe@ky.gov) or 564-0782.

#### Digital Government, from pg. 1

In addition, the Commonwealth is lauded as a Top 5 state for its use of Enterprise Information and Communications Technology. This includes the Kentucky business portal, [onestop.ky.gov](http://onestop.ky.gov), which makes it easy for businesses to access information they need to start up, expand or locate in Kentucky. Other work noted is the ongoing consolidation of IT infrastructure services, expected to be completed in 2015.

"I am continually amazed at the expertise and talent we have in regard to technology," said Finance and Administration Cabinet Secretary Lori H. Flanery. "Our staff has worked extensively on the health benefit exchange, GIS mapping, IT consolidation in addition to so many other outstanding projects."

Kentucky received an overall grade of B-plus. Based on the survey criteria, this grade reflects that Kentucky continues to trend upward as state leaders focus on using technology to improve service delivery, increase capacity, change cost structures and reach policy goals. Twenty-one states were designated as trending up, 17 consistent and 12 trending down.

"One project that will move the needle for Kentucky in future surveys will be the build out of much needed middle-mile fiber infrastructure so more families and businesses can get affordable high-speed Internet," Gov. Beshear added. "Bringing affordable and accessible high-speed Internet to the far reaches of Kentucky will propel our state forward as a true technology leader."

### REMINDER:

### Deadline for \$500 KECC Gift Card Drawing Extended!

Forms are now due by 5 p.m. **Sept. 17**.  
Ask your agency coordinator for details.

### Voter Registration Deadline for General Election Fast Approaching

Have you moved since the last election? Have you not registered to vote before? Do you have family or friends who've recently moved?

These are just some of the factors that may impact your ability to vote in the upcoming November 4 General Election. To be eligible to vote, be sure to register by Monday, Oct. 6.



It's your right.  
It's your responsibility

County clerks' offices throughout Kentucky will accept voter registration cards until the close of business on Oct. 6. Mail-in voter registration applications must be post-marked by Oct. 6.

For the first time, qualified military and overseas voters may register update their registration information electronically through the State Board of Elections' new [Federal](#)

[Post Card Application Wizard](#). The Wizard, along with other resources for military and overseas voters, is available at [www.elect.ky.gov](http://www.elect.ky.gov). Applications submitted electronically must be received by the county clerk by close of business on Oct. 6.

Here are other important voting laws that impact voter eligibility. You must:

- Be a U.S. citizen,
- Be a Kentucky resident for at least 28 days before Election day,
- Be at least 18 years old by the date of the next general election,
- Not be a convicted felon, or if convicted of a felony offense, must have obtained a restoration of civil rights,
- Not have been adjudged "mentally incompetent," and
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere outside Kentucky.

Individuals who move from one county to another while voter registration books are open and fail to update their registration information before the voter registration books close are not permitted to vote in the election.

Under the recently established [Address Confidentiality Program](#), victims of domestic violence and sexual assault can register and update their registration while keeping their names and addresses out of publicly available voter records.

Check your current registration status at <https://cdcbp.ky.gov/VICWeb/index.jsp>.